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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are December 6-7, 2011, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESS: Room 1107, U. S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail AC21@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The next meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for December 6-7, 2011. The AC21 consists of members representing the biotechnology industry, the organic food industry, farming communities, the seed industry, food manufacturers, state government, consumer and community development groups, as well as academic researchers and a medical doctor. In addition, representatives

from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative have been invited to serve as "ex officio" members. The Committee meeting will be held from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on each day. The topics to be discussed will include: (1) considering reports of two working groups on their initial deliberations relating to size and scope of risks and to potential compensation mechanisms; (2) listening to presentations from outside experts on topics relevant to the work of the AC21; and (3) continuing overall discussions on the Committee charge and planning subsequent work.

Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 will be made available on the USDA web site at

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should also inform Dr.

Schechtman in writing or via E-mail at the indicated addresses at least three business days before the meeting. On December 6, 2011, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited and security requirements at the venue dictate that all attendees must be pre-registered for clearance in order to enter the building. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Fowler at (202) 720-4074 or by E-mail at Dianne.fowler@ars.usda.gov at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address,

telephone, fax number, date of birth, and identifying data (drivers license or passport number) when you register. If you are a person with a disability and request reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please note the request in your registration. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: November 16, 2011

Catherine E. Woteki
Under Secretary
Research, Education and Economics

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